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Abstract

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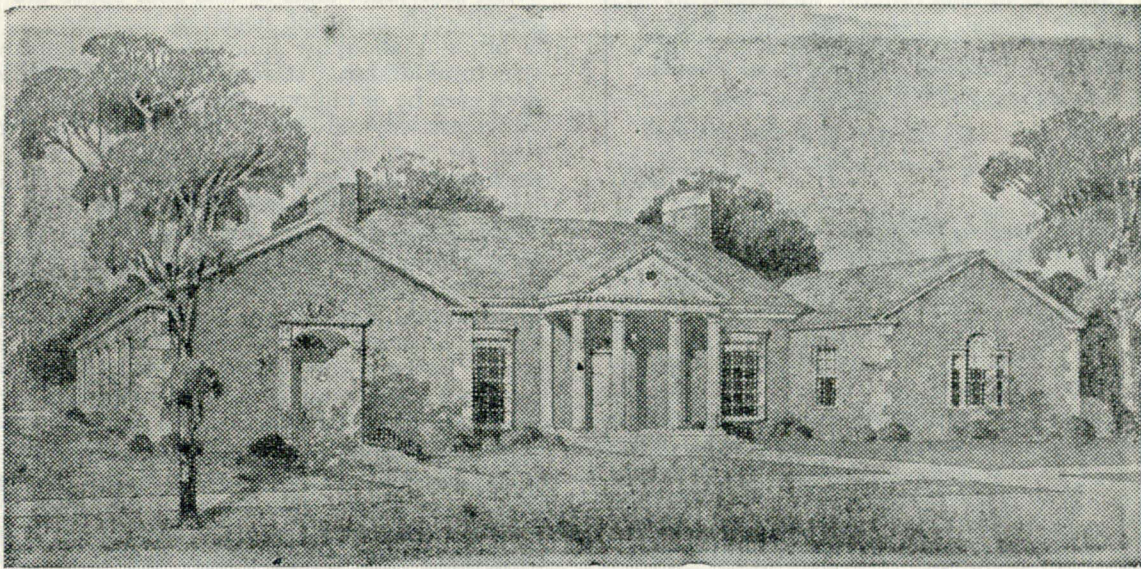
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SOUTH CAROLINA LIBRARY BULLETIN

Vol. 4, No. 1

ISSUED QUARTERLY BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
AND THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE LIBRARY BOARD

April, 1948



HORRY COUNTY LIBRARY NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Horry County Plans County Library

Horry County is planning a county library which will be one of the outstanding libraries in the whole state. The library will be a living memorial to World War dead. \$125,000 has been appropriated for the project and a one mill tax for library support has been voted.

The first step in the library program is the construction of a library building in Conway. This building is unusual in South Carolina as being the first in the entire state planned specifically to house countywide library service. Special features such as loading platforms, book storage space, work rooms are designed for bookmobile service to the entire county.

The building was designed carefully by Hopkins and Baker of Florence to fit in with the colonial homes and public buildings in Conway. It is authentic in proportion and will be built of the best materials available. The left wing which houses an auditorium seating 100 people, was designed with the use of audio-visual library materials in mind. The main part of the library includes a lobby, children's room, periodical alcove, large reading room and reference room. Behind these is a stack room, librarian's office, two work rooms, bookmobile storage room and loading platform, and other rooms and facilities needed in the operation of a modern library.

One half of the large lot on which the library is being built was donated by the heirs of the late Col. H. L. Buck; the other half was donated by the town of Conway.

(Continued on page 4)

Some Principles for Library Planning

By William M. Randall

(Excerpts from an article published in *College and Research Libraries*, Oct., 1946.)

A library, like a factory or a school or a home or a theatre, is a place where something happens. It is a building constructed for a purpose; an edifice erected to perform a function. Since this is true, there is only one way in which it can be properly planned. It cannot be planned from the outside in; it must be planned from the inside out. One may not begin with a Greek temple, or a Gothic cathedral, or a copy of Magdelene College—however beautiful each of these may be—and put a successful library inside. One must begin with the library itself and build this first, and then put a wall around it to keep the weather out. The result of such a process, honestly performed, cannot help but be beautiful, with the honest beauty of function fulfilled.

I should like to make two points here, in passing. The first of these I have already made by inference. It is this. The best architecture being planned today is factory architecture. This is true because the builder of a factory is interested in only one thing: to erect a building which will best serve the purpose for which it is built. When he does this, without cavil, he produces a beautiful building. He produces a building which is beautiful because its usefulness is apparent . . . A library should do the same thing. To put it simply, a library should look like a library.

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The other point I wish to make here, in passing, is this. Many of the elements in the architecture we copy today were functional once, but are functional no longer. We have lost sight of the reason in our reverence for the form. This is a symptom of decadence — this worship of form beyond reason. It is a decadence we cannot afford in purposeful architecture.

A library is a place where books are used and where books are stored. That is functional. But books do not have to be used in a reading room; and books do not have to be stored in a stackroom. It is altogether possible that the perfect library will have neither of these, in the sense in which the terms are generally understood. Do you see what I mean? I am not for a moment trying to say that reading rooms and stackrooms have no place in a modern library. I am only asking that we begin at the beginning in our planning, and not in the middle. I am only saying that the first questions to answer are "How is reading best done in this situation, and how are books best stored?" If the honest answer is a reading room and a stackroom, then build a reading room and a stackroom. If the answer be something else, then build something else. Build what is needed, because it is needed; and not what is traditional, because it is traditional . . .

So, the primary principle of good library planning is first to find out what you need and then go ahead and build it. And the second principle is just as simple. Make up your mind before you start that what you need you can have and don't quit till you get it . . . The technique of modern building, with its wealth of materials and its myriad of ways of doing things, is inexhaustible in its possibilities.

It is a foolish man today who believes that he can foresee the structural needs of librarianship twenty or even ten years hence . . . We have learned that it is impossible to foresee in which direction the needs for space will grow. We have learned that the direction of library growth is unpredictable, except in general terms.

And yet, we must build. We must construct buildings, and in order to construct them we must plan them. We must plan them to fit neatly the needs of today and susceptible of easy adaptation to the needs of tomorrow. At first sight this appears to present a dilemma. But modern building technique has an answer. The answer is not a new one in the building field; it has been used for decades in the construction of industrial buildings. Perhaps as good a name as any is "adaptable construction".

Adaptable construction is simply a type of construction which furnishes a maximum of free space within the enclosing walls. This means space which is adaptable to the needs of the moment, without the necessity of expensive and messy alterations. It means engineering the building in such a way that any square foot of space may be used for any purpose.

Under this system, the old terms of reading room and stackroom and catalog room and reference room disappear from the vocabulary. A library building becomes simply an area of usable floor space surrounded by walls. What individual units of this floor space are to be used for depends upon the needs of the time . . . All of this is brought about by innovations and improvements in structural design. It requires that all portions of the floor area be of uniform strength; that they may be heated, ventilated, and lighted according to the uses to which they are put; and that the introduction of partitions or the removal of partitions or changes in lighting or ventilation shall be neither difficult or costly.

And the cost? Generally, desirable things come high. In this case, however, we are agreeably surprised. Far from increasing the cost of efficient building, modern building technique has generally made it somewhat less expensive. Competent estimates show that a given number of books, for example, may be accommodated in a structure like the one I have been describing for a little less than would be possible in a traditional building.

So, I have tried to give two major principles for library planning. The first of these is, find out what you need and then build it. Think in terms of function and forget old patterns. Do this without fear that the result will be something other than a library, only because it may not look like the buildings we call libraries today.

The second principle is, when you know what you need, don't give up and don't compromise until you get it.

Books About Library Buildings

The books listed below will be helpful to persons planning library buildings. These books can be borrowed from the State Library Board.

Fussler, Herman H. Library buildings for library service. A. L. A., 1947. \$3.50.

Nineteen librarians, architects and engineers discuss flexibility and functional design in library planning.

Gerould, James T. The college library building. A. L. A., 1932. \$2.00.

A discussion of basic principles and standards.

Hanley, Edna R. College and university library buildings. A. L. A., 1939. \$4.50.

Pictures, floor and section plans of 42 buildings.

The Library Building. A. L. A., 1947. \$1.25.

A symposium on library services and building requirements, with separate sections on the public library building program, and college and university libraries.

Lowe, John A. Small public library buildings. A. L. A., 1939. \$1.50.

Pictures and floor plans of 24 buildings, with critical comments on each.

Plaister, Cornelia D. Floors and floor coverings. A. L. A., 1939. \$.75.

Brief, dependable information useful to any library, old or new.

Schunk, Russell J. Pointers for public library building planners. A. L. A., 1945. \$1.25.
Discusses remodeling and new buildings.

Wheeler, Joseph L. and Githens, A. M. The American public library building. A. L. A., 1941. \$7.00.

The most complete presentation of the principles of the public library building design yet published. Contains hundreds of photographs, diagrams, and floor plans.

Reports on the Public Library Building Program in South Carolina

Mrs. Eva L. Higgins, librarian of the Pickens County Library, reports that construction is progressing on a new library building in Easley which will house the Pickens County Library. The building will cost \$38,000.

Mrs. Effie Bruns, librarian of the Georgetown Public Library writes: "With the \$50,000 appropriated by the county to renovate the beautiful old building, now used for a jail, Georgetown plans to have an up-to-date library. Reading rooms, work rooms, and floor space for bookstacks to accommodate 50,000 volumes will be provided. Everything to make the library a place for pleasure and education."

Mrs. James Magill, an active friend of public libraries, reports on the new Abbeville Community Center Library: "The city of Abbeville has purchased a beautiful old two story home and grounds on North Main Street, which is being converted into a public library in the spacious rooms upstairs and a youth center on the first floor. Redecorating will be completed soon and we have hopes of opening the library in early Spring."

Mr. F. M. Tillman, Chairman of the Cheraw Memorial Library Fund reports on the progress made by his Committee: "In March of 1947 the Cheraw Memorial Library Fund was organized to raise funds to build the Cheraw Memorial Library, incorporating the present Cheraw Public Library. Through the various civic and fraternal organizations of the town, canvassing was begun in May 1947. As of the close of the year the Fund had raised approximately \$4,000 and has promises that the full quota for 1947 of \$5,000 will be completed prior to March of this year. In March the Fund will begin work on its plans for raising the 1948 quota of \$5,000."

Orangeburg County has recently constructed a new library building in Orangeburg which serves the negroes of the town and county. This library is operated as a branch of the Orangeburg County Library and is a valuable supplement to the service already given to negroes by the Orangeburg County bookmobile.

Miss Alice McDonald, librarian of the Fairfield County Library, writes that plans have been drawn by a Columbia architect for a new county library building in Winnsboro.

As a memorial to the veterans of World War II York Township has acquired a building which will be used as a community center and library. The building has been completely renovated and a large part of the ground floor turned over to the York Township Library Board.

The city of Dillon received a bequest of a beautiful home and \$10,000 to establish and maintain a library in Dillon. This will probably be the Dillon City Branch of the Dillon County Library.

Minimum Library Salary Standards for 1948

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association January 31, 1948

(Excerpts from an article published in the A. L. A. Bulletin, March, 1948.)

The A. L. A. Board on Personnel Administration, in full awareness of the legal and financial limitations on funds for library support, yet with growing concern over the general failure of library salaries to keep up with increased living costs, recommends the following minimum standards as a basis for adjusting library salaries in 1948.

Specific Recommendations

1. The minimum annual beginning salary for the lowest professional level library position should be not less than \$2,800.

2. The minimum entering salaries for subprofessional, clerical, and other classes of library employees should be at least equal to the average prevailing entering rates for similar positions in government, in business, in industry, or in other institutions in the same community or economic region. In no case should the minimum entering salary be less than \$2,160 for subprofessional positions or \$1,800 for beginning clerical positions.

3. The minimum entering salaries for all other grades of positions in the professional, subprofessional, and clerical services in libraries should be not less than the basic rates already adopted by the A. L. A. Council, plus cost-of-living adjustments ranging from a 33-1/3% increase for salaries less than \$3,000 to a 30% increase for salaries of \$3,000 to \$4,499.

4. The minimum annual income necessary to provide a local public library with sufficient funds to render service of high quality in 1948 is \$3.00 per capita. An income of \$2.25 per capita is needed to render reasonably good service, whereas \$1.50 per capita may permit limited, though inadequate service.

5. Public libraries rendering the limited service that is possible with \$1.50 per capita support should devote at least 65 per cent of their total budget to salaries, exclusive of maintenance service, and 17.5 per cent to books, periodicals, and binding.

6. School librarians and professional assistants in school libraries should be on the same salary schedule effective for teachers with equal training and experience, but the compensation paid should be not less than the minimum salary herein recommended for the lowest grade of professional library position.

Any library which has not yet established basic plus cost-of-living-adjusted graded salary schedules should arrange to develop and adopt such a plan at an early date. This plan should include both a basic permanent salary schedule, geared to a \$2,100 salary as its absolute minimum basic lowest grade professional rate and at least \$2,800 as the actual minimum salary now being paid for such positions. For all library positions above the beginning or entering level, salary standards including minimums, maximums, and merit increments should be increased proportionately so that relationships as to degrees of difficulty, responsibility, and length and kinds of training and experience for various positions will be maintained on an equitable basis. Thus, a new cost-of-living-adjusted range should be established for every grade of position on a library's payroll and each staff member should receive the in-grade step salary in the new range.

corresponding to his present step position in his grade.

These standards have been developed with the full realization that any salary schedule to be adequately understood must be considered in relation to the number of work-months per year, hours of work per week, number of holidays allowed with pay, provisions for sick leave, employer contributions toward insurance and retirement plans, and local increase and promotion policies. The salary recommendations of the A. L. A. Board on Personnel Administration are based on a work-year of 12 months, which includes not less than 26 working days of vacation, exclusive of special holidays, for those in the professional service and 12 working days for those in the other services, a work-week of not more than 40 hours, sick leave with pay or not less than 26 working days and other conditions of work at least equal to those prevailing in the library's local community.

The Board on Personnel Administration believes that each library should re-examine its situation in regard to salaries frequently, and regulate the percentage of the cost-of-living adjustment as needed to meet the changes in the purchasing power of the U. S. dollar, at least until economic conditions become reasonable stable with "real" salaries at an equitable level. It is recommended, therefore, that provisions for the adjustment of salaries to cost-of-living fluctuations be incorporated in library salary policies whenever possible.

A. L. A. and S. C. L. A. Membership

Don't forget to pay your A. L. A. dues. S. C. membership quota in the A. L. A. increases each year; and in order to meet the goal for 1948 every present member is urgently requested to recruit at least one new member.

Miss Gladys M. Smith, member of the A. L. A. membership committee, Winthrop College, Rock Hill, South Carolina, will be glad to send you membership blanks, or you may request blanks and leaflets from the Membership Office, American Library Association, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago 11, Illinois.

Mrs. Ella Sue Smith, Treasurer of the S. C. L. A., reports that she has recruited more than sixty new members for the Association as a result of letters which she has sent out urging membership in the organization. Librarians and trustees who have not yet joined the S. C. L. A. may write to Mrs. Ella Sue Smith, Librarian of the Anderson Public Library, Anderson, South Carolina.

(Continued from page 1)

The location is excellent, being a block from the main street and near the center of the town of Conway.

The Horry Library Commission plans to spend \$25,000 on an initial collection of books. A trained librarian will be employed to head the library program and to plan the extensive services needed in the county. At least one bookmobile will be purchased and put into operation. Branches and stations are planned to bring library service to the larger communities in the county.

The Horry Library Commission is as follows: Life members: Senator Frank A. Thompson, Mr. Paul Quattlebaum and Mr. Doc D. Harrelson. Other members: Mr. J. C. Burroughs, Chairman; Mrs. Paul Sasser, Secretary; Mr. H. H. Woodward, Jr., Treasurer; Mrs. Charles D. Prince, Miss Louise Stone, Mr. Joe H. Derham, Mr. W. Talbert Johnson, Dr. J. J. Jordan and Mr. James K. Floyd.

Annual Meeting of the Library Section of the S. C. E. A.

The Library Section of the South Carolina Education Association met in Columbia on March 18th. Miss Leonora Long, President, presided.

Miss Nancy Jane Day, School Library Supervisor, was the main speaker. She reported on the activities of school libraries throughout the State.

New officers of the Library Section are:

President: Miss Madelaine Mosimann, Training School at Winthrop College, Rock Hill.

Vice-President: Miss Susan Caldwell, Schneider Graded School, Columbia.

Secretary: Miss Naomi Derrick, Chicora High School, Naval Base.

At the Friday morning session of the Library Section Mr. Charles P. McInnis, in charge of radio education of the Columbia Public Schools, gave a demonstration on the selection and use of audio-visual aids in the instructional program.

Annual Conferences of Library Associations

The 67th annual conference of the American Library Association will be held in Atlantic City from June 13 to 19 inclusive. An attendance of 7,000 delegates is anticipated. The program will be built around the Four Year Goals and the theme will probably concern "Libraries and Public Opinion".

Delegates are urged to make reservations early through the Housing Bureau, 16 Central Pier, Atlantic City, N. J.

The biennial meeting of the Southeastern Library Association will be held in Louisville, Kentucky on October 20-23, 1948. Headquarters for the conference will be at the Brown Hotel. The Kentucky Hotel and the Seelbach Hotel, which are close by, will also be used by delegates.

The annual meeting of the South Carolina Library Association will be held September 24 and 25 at the Ocean Forest Hotel in Myrtle Beach. Mr. Milton E. Lord of the Boston Public Library will be the featured speaker. Price of accommodations, which include all meals, will be \$10.00 a day.

College and University Library Section

J. Mitchell Reames, Editor

More details are now available regarding plans at COKER COLLEGE for a new library building, although the authorities there remind us that they are still very much in the early stages of planning. The present college library collection is housed on the second floor of the administration building.

The contemplated new building would cost approximately \$125,000, and would be called the Community-College Library, as it would serve not only the college but also the town of Hartsville, containing the present 22,000 volumes of the college library collection plus some 8,000 volumes now in the Hartsville Community Library. Special provision will be made for the agricultural and industrial laboratories of the Hartsville area and rooms will be provided for clubs and societies to hold meetings.

Plans for a new library at FURMAN UNIVERSITY are being held in abeyance until a final decision is made about the consolidation of the two campuses, proposed at the last meeting of the S. C. Baptist Convention.